spite of substanital reduction in the poverty proportions was the rise in population in the intervening years. The reduction in proportion of people below poverty line was achieved by a combination of accelerated rural growth and direct attack on poverty through anti poverty programmes. Substantial success has been achieved in containing the incidence of poverty and mitigating the severity of the poverty problem in the country. However, vigorous efforts are needed to completely eradicate poverty from the country.

(d) The Government has adopted a three pronged strategy for reducing poverty. It comprises of (i) accelerated economic growth with a focus on sectors which are employment intensive; (ii) human and social development through basic minimum services; and (iii) targetted anti-poverty programmes. There has been a growing recognition that successful implementation of the anti poverty programmes depends on the active participation of the beneficiaries in the formulation and execution of such programmes. The anti-poverty programmes for generation of both self-employment and wage-employment have, therefore, been recently redesigned to improve their efficacy/impact on the poor. Formation of self help groups is encouraged to bring forth the inherent potential of the poor to help themselves. The self help groups are assisted by the Government agencies by providing training, technical guidance and financial support to take up income generating activities that would enable the beneficiaries to earn a decent level of living.

Diversion of PDS oil in black market in Delhi

314. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUMAND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the large scale diversion of PDS kerosene oil for black market in Delhi depriving the genuine card holders;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any exercise to identify the PDS outlets in the city, indulging in such malpractices;

(c) if so, what is the outcome thereof; and

(d) what measures have been taken by Government to check it?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (d) The Central Government through Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas allocates kerosene to the State/Union Terrorites for Public Distribution System. The distribution of kerosene within a State is responsibility of the State Government. The attention of the Government of National Capital Territory (NCT) Delhi has been drawn to the incidences of diversion of PDS

kerosene oil in Delhi. The State has made efforts to identify non-genuine card holders and stopping supplies thereto. To prevent any diversion, action has been taken against the dealers indulging in malpractices including diversion.

Guidelines regarding posting of officers with Ministers

315. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are some guidelines that Ministers and officers on deputation should not be from the same State;

(b) if so, the details of the guidelines in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that appointments at higher levels in 1999-2000 are flagrantly in violation of these guidelines;

(d) the number of Ministries where officers from the same State to that of Minister have been selected; and

(e) the steps proposed to reverse this trend in public interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSION AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) and (b) There are no such guidelines.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to parts (a) & (b) of the question.

(d) Officers of All India Services (AIS) namely, Indian Administrative Services (IAS), Indian Police Service (IPS), and Indian Forest Service (IFS) are brone on different States Cadres. During the period from 1.4.99 to 1.3.2000, 214 All India Services officers were appointed in different Ministries/ Departments. Out of them, 42 officers appointed in 26 Ministries / Departments were borne on the cadres of the States to which the Ministers of the those Ministries belonged. Of these 42 officers, 30 were appointed as Private Secretaries or Officers on Special Duty to the Ministers.

(e) In view of the reply to parts (a) and (b) of the question, no steps are called for.